

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
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C O N F I D E N T I A L ALEXANDRIA 0520
EXDIS
FROM AMBASSADOR EILTS IN ALEXANDRIA

VIENNA PASS SALZBURG

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV EG
SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN RUMORS RE POSSIBLE CARTER/SADAT MEETING
IN EUROPE

1. VARIOUS AMERICAN AND INTERNATIONAL NEWS AGENCIES ARE
CARRYING REPORTS FROM HERE OF A PLANNED MEETING
BETWEEN PRESIDENTS CARTER AND SADAT, EITHER IN BONN OR
IN SALZBURG. THESE REPORTS SUGGEST MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE
IN FIRST TWO WEEKS OF JULY AND SOME GO SO FAR AS TO
SPECIFY THAT SADAT IS LEAVING FOR EUROPE THIS COMING
FRIDAY.

2. SO FAR AS WE CAN TELL, THERE IS NO SUBSTANCE TO THESE
REPORTS. THEY ORIGINATE FROM EGYPTIAN SIDE AND ARE
APPARENTLY BASED UPON AN INTERVIEW WHICH SADAT GAVE LAST
WEEK TO HIS FAVORATE CORRESPONDENT, ANIS MANSOUR, IN
WHICH THE PRESIDENT SPOKE ABOUT THE POSSIBLE UTILITY
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OF A MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER IN EUROPE. AS IS
ALWAYS THE CASE IN EGYPT, MANSOUR'S REPORT OF HIS
INTERVIEW WITH SADAT HAS BEEN TAKEN BY EGYPTIAN
OFFICIALDOM AND OTHERS AS GOSPEL. THUS, MININFO
UNDERSECRETARY MURSI SAAD AL-DIN WAS THIS MORNING
SPECULATING WITH AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS THAT SUCH A
MEETING MIGHT TAKE PLACE. ACCORDING TO SAAD AL-DIN,

HIS SOURCE OF INFORMATION WAS ONE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL GUARDS, WHO HAVE ALLEGEDLY BEEN ALERTED TO PREPARE THEMSELVES IN NEAR FUTURE FOR A TRIP TO EUROPE. ALTHOUGH SAAD AL-DIN STRESSED THAT THESE REPORTS ARE MERE SPECULATION, FOREIGN MEDIA REPS HERE ARE POUNCING UPON THEM AS GOOD COPY. REUTERS, WE ARE TOLD, HAS EVEN CLAIMED CONFIRMATION FROM AN UNIDENTIFIED "AMERICAN SOURCE". THIS IS PURE FANTASY. NO AMERICAN OFFICIAL EITHER IN CAIRO OR ALEXANDRIA HAS SPOKEN TO REUTERS REPRESENTATIVE ABOUT SUBJECT. IN RESPONSE PRESS QUERIES, WE ARE TAKING POSITION THAT WE KNOW OF NO CONTEMPLATED MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENTS CARTER AND SADAT IN EUROPE.

3. AS SPINOFF TO ABOVE STORY, VARIOUS CORRESPONDENTS ARE ALSO REPORTING POSSIBILITY OF A DAYAN MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SADAT IN EUROPE AND OF A POSSIBLE SADAT/PERES MEETING IN SALZBURG.

4. COMMENT: THE STORIES OF A POSSIBLE CARTER/SADAT MEETING ARE HAVING A RIPPLING EFFECT. FACT OF MATTER IS THAT SADAT WOULD LIKE SUCH A MEETING, WHICH WOULD ALSO PROVIDE CONVENIENT PRETEXT FOR HIM TO VISIT ONE OF HIS FAVORITE EUROPEAN RESORTS, SALZBURG, FOR A COUPLE OF WEEKS. HE LIKES TO GET AWAY FROM EGYPT FOR A BRIEF PERIOD IN THE SUMMER, BUT NEEDS SOME REASON TO DO SO. AS OF NOW, WE KNOW OF NO
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EARLY PLANS FOR SADAT TO VISIT EUROPE. MCCLELLAND

NOTE BY OC/T: EXDIS CAPTION ADDED PER S/S-O MISS ROBINSON.

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